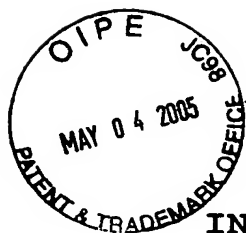


ITW



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Atty. Docket: STOLTZ11

In re Application of:) Conf. No.: 8947
Klas STOLTZ) Art Unit: 3736
Appln. No.: 10/697,943) Examiner:
Date Filed or 102(e) date:) Washington, D.C.
October 31, 2003)
For: SAMPLING DEVICE AND METHOD...) May 4, 2005

REQUEST FOR STATUS

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building, Mail Stop
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

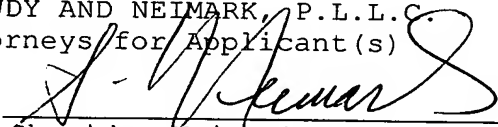
As more than 18 months have passed since this application was filed or entered into the United States National Stage and no office action on the merits has yet been received, the applicant hereby respectfully makes inquiry as to the status of the above-identified application.

As 37 CFR 1.2 states that the action of the PTO "will be based exclusively on the written record", applicant needs and therefore **requests a written reply**.

Respectfully submitted,

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